

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for concentrating a plurality of samples comprising:

a first temperature ~~control~~ means having a plurality of ~~container means~~ containers for ~~containing~~ said plurality of samples;

a second complimentary temperature ~~control~~ means having a plurality of thermal conducting means comprising a plurality of wires which are adapted to be inserted in respective samples in said plurality of container means; and

insulating means for insulating said first temperature ~~control~~ means from said second temperature ~~control~~ means such that an amount of heat from said plurality of samples is dissipated through said plurality of thermal conducting means,

wherein said first and second temperature means are individually selected from circulating heaters and coolers, heating and cooling blocks or slush baths.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of ~~container means~~ containers are located in a face of said first temperature ~~control~~ means and wherein said insulating means comprises a layer of insulating material disposed on a face of said second temperature ~~control~~ means opposing said face of said first temperature ~~control~~ means, said plurality of thermal conducting means passing from said second temperature ~~control~~ means through said insulating material and, in use, into said plurality of samples in said plurality of ~~container means~~ containers.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein said insulating means partly or completely prevents transfer of heat between said first temperature ~~control~~ means and said second temperature ~~control~~ means.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein said insulating means comprises a plastic foam insulator.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, wherein said plurality of wires are formed from metal, polymer, inorganic or organic material.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to claim 8, wherein said wires comprise copper wires, ~~each wire optionally comprising~~ wires or copper wires having an outer protective layer.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, wherein each of said wires has a diameter of from about several nanometers to several centimeters.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to claim 10, wherein said each of said wires has a diameter of about 1mm.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~said container means~~ each container comprises a plurality of wells each of which receives one of said plurality of samples or is adapted to receive a sample container holding one of said plurality of samples.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to claim 12, wherein each sample container comprises a tube, bottle or ~~vial~~

vial.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to claim 13, wherein each sample container comprises a dialysis tube.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein said first and/or second temperature ~~control~~ means are manually or automatically moveable from a loading position in which samples are loaded into said container means, to an operative position in which said conducting means are inserted into respective samples.

17. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) A method for concentrating a plurality of samples comprising:

placing ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of samples in a first temperature ~~control~~ means having a plurality of ~~container means~~ containers for ~~containing~~ said plurality of samples;

inserting a conducting means into each of said samples, said conducting means being mounted relative to a second complimentary temperature ~~control~~ means;

cooling said plurality of samples by means of said first and

second temperature ~~control~~ means to selectively crystallize components of said samples; and

removing said crystallized components from said samples.

18. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 17, wherein said conducting means conduct heat from said samples and act as a support for nucleation during said crystallization, and facilitate removal of said crystallized components.

19. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 17, wherein said samples are in the form of aqueous solutions, organic solutions, or solids which can be liquefied under certain conditions.

20. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 17, wherein said crystallization is carried out at a temperature of said second temperature ~~control~~ means of from about -70°C to about 0°C.

21. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 17, wherein said first temperature ~~control~~ means is set at a temperature at which said plurality of samples would be

maintained in a liquid state, and wherein said second ~~temperture~~
~~control~~ temperature means is set at a temperature at which
selected components of said plurality of samples are crystallized
out of solution.

22. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according
to claim 21, wherein said first temperature ~~control~~ means is set at
a ~~temperture~~ temperature above 0°C and said second ~~temperture~~
~~control~~ temperature means is set at a temperature below 0°C.